

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 994

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 10401

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, US, ET

SUBJECT: ALLEGED CIA CONNECTION WITH ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY PARTY (EPRP)

REF: (A) STATE 229686, (B) ADDIS 10295

1. CHARGE WAS FINALLY ABLE TO SEE FONMIN KIFLE WODAJO LATE AFTERNOON SEPT 20 AND AFTER MAKING CLEAR HE WAS ACTION ON INSTRUCTIONS, ORALLY MADE VERBATIM ALL POINTS PARA 2 (A) REFTEL (B). KIFLE LISTENED CAREFULLY, SAID HE WOULD "TAKE NOTE" OF OUR DEMARCHE AND LOOK INTO MATTER, BUT HAD NO OTHER COMMENT. HE DID, HOWEVER, GIVE IMPRESSION THAT HE WAS NOT ENTIRELY FAMILIAR WITH PMAC'S SEPT 15 STATEMENT LINKING EPRP WITH CIA, SO CHARGE TOOK OCCASION TO QUOTE TO HIM OFFENDING REFERENCE AS CARRIED IN ETHIOPIAN ENGLISH LANGUAGE HERALD AND OUR TRANSLATION OF AMHARIC ORIGINAL (PARAS 1 AND 2 OF ADDIS ABABA 10298).

2. COMMENT: THAT KIFLE MAY NOT HAVE BEEN FULLY FAMILIAR WITH PMAC'S STATEMENT IS SOMEWHAT SURPRISING IN THAT DIRECTOR AMERICAN DIVISION, MOFA, WHO MADE APPOINTMENT WAS MADE GENERALLY AWARE OF PURPOSE OF CHARGE'S REQUEST TO SEE KIFLE. ON OTHER HAND, KIFLE HAS BEEN DEEPLY INVOLVED IN PREPARATIONS FOR HIS DEPARTURE FOR
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UNGA AND MAY HAVE BEEN ISOLATED BOTH FROM HIS STAFF AND

EVENTS OF PAST FEW DAYS. WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER HE CAN NOW FIND TIME TO PASS ON OUR CONCERN IN DETAIL TO PMAC BEFORE HE LEAVES (DATE APPARENTLY IS STILL UNCERTAIN), BUT MUST ASSUME HE WILL DO SO PENDING EVIDENCE TO THE CONTRARY. BEST COURSE MAY NOW BE TO WAIT AND SEE WHETHER DEMARCHE HAS ANY EFFECT IN FUTURE EPMG PRONOUNCEMENTS AND KEEP IN RESERVE ANY FURTHER FORMAL APPROACHES HERE. (PMAC DID ISSUE ANOTHER STRONG ANTI-EPRP STATEMENT SEPT 19 BEING REPORTED SEPT 19, BUT WHILE STATEMENT IS REplete WITH REFERENCES TO IMPERIALISTS AND REACTIONARIES, IT STOPPED SHORT OF OVERT LINKING OF CIA AND EPRP.) WE SHALL IN ANY CASE BE LOOKING FOR INFORMAL OPPORTUNITIES HERE TO GET WORD OF OUR DISSATISFACTION THROUGH TO PMAC DECISION-MAKERS. WE LEAVE TO DEPT QUESTION OF WHETHER TO CALL IN ETHIOPIAN CHARGE, ALTHOUGH WE CAN SEE SOME MERIT IN REINFORCING OUR DEMARCHE, IN VIEW OF KIFLE'S SEEMING LACK OF FAMILIARITY WITH PMAC STATEMENT WHICH INDICATED TO US THAT MOFA WAS NEITHER CONSULTED NOR INFORMED PRIOR TO ISSUANCE OF STATEMENT. WE DO SUGGEST THAT SUBJECT BE MENTIONED IN ANY CONVERSATION WITH KIFLE IN NEW YORK (STATE 229964.) TIENKEN

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